

MAY 2019

SEMINGTON  
PARISH



MAGAZINE

**Minister for Semington:**

**Rev. John Rees**

**22 Warren Road**

**Staverton**

**BA14 8UZ**

**Tel. 01225 764365**

## Semington Diary

Village Hall (Unless otherwise stated)



7 <sup>th</sup>	TUES	Book Club	8.00pm
		Somerset Arms	
9 <sup>th</sup>	THUR	Semington WI	7.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	WEDS	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	SUN	Village Hall Quiz	7.30pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	THURS	Polling Station	All day

### **Every Week in The Village Hall & St George's School**

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am-12.30pm
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday	10.00am-11.30am
	St George's School Hall	
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9.00am-1.00pm
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm
	St George's School Hall	
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10.00am-12 noon
Alzheimer's Support	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month	10.00am-12 noon
Semingtones	Fridays	6.00pm-7.30pm



Semington Fete 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 1.30pm at St George's School

The weather is warming up and so are our plans for the fete this year!

Entertainment - stalls - games - teas - bar - silent auction - and all on your doorstep!! More to come next month.....

We look forward to seeing you there!

From the Fete Committee



## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Housegroup** - Tuesdays 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May, 7.45pm. Join us to drink tea/coffee, chat and have a laugh, and find out more about the Bible. Using resources from the Bible Society (visit [biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course](http://biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course)), these sessions are for anyone - with a Christian faith, or none. For more information, including venues, phone Bev/Jack 870784, Pam/David 870030 or Victoria 871936.

**Christians in Semington** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7.45pm – 9.00pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

**Messy Church** - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 11.00am -1.00pm in the school hall. There will be more activities, suitable for all ages, and lunch included so that you can forget about cooking for the day. (Suggested donation £1.) Please let us know as soon as possible if you can come, so that we have enough food! Phone Bev/Jack on 870784 or text 07922 105084. Please note that Messy Church is for all ages, but children must bring an adult.

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

Well I do hope that your Easter Eggs were plentiful and chocolatey The deadline for the June edition is **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. New contributors are always welcome. Email me at [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com) Please note notices must be presented in portrait format.

The e-mail address for advertising enquiries is [semparmagads@icloud.com](mailto:semparmagads@icloud.com) There are spaces coming available and if you have one-off adverts, where space permits, we can aim to accommodate for a donation to the magazine.

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## This month I've been trying to act my age

*Gilly Airey*

May is my birthday month and I am, I must admit, getting to the age when I can no longer keep using halves and quarters when asked how old I am. The challenge is that in my head I am still 25 years old but in my knees I am so, so much older.... Gorgeous hubby has for years declared himself to be 9 years old and says when he thinks that's no longer appropriate he will become 10..... But this is the man who is a dedicated wearer of shorts all year round!

I am, I realise the same age as my mother was when I thought she was old.... So if this is the case then maybe there are aspects of my life that might need a wee tweak or adjustment. Lets start with music – I have tried so hard to keep up to date with the hit parade (mistake number one – never call it the hit parade) but I'm not going to lie my default radio programmes of choice are 'Pick of the Pops' and 'Sounds of the Eighties' with Ooh Gary Davies. I need to be able to sing along to the music I'm listening too, although as I think you may recall I do not believe it is essential to know all the words – just make sure you can finish each line with gusto.

Then there's buying clothes. Once upon a time there was clear demarkation on the style of clothes you wore according to your age, but the lines are blurred and whilst I have no urge to purchase a pair 'Daisy Dukes' (google it – you'll howl with laughter!). I have always, always, wanted a pair of dungarees. Now I'm old enough to have seen dungarees come in and out of fashion multiple times, but at 52 I decided the time was right..... I was going to rock a Dexy's Midnight Runners crossed with Bananarama look, all tousled hair and sexy white vest underneath.

So I did it – I only went and bought myself a pair of dungarees.... Got them home and tried them on and asked Gorgeous Hubby his opinion. 'Not bad' came the response, tempered I feel, because he knew how desperate I was to have dungarees – 'what do you think?' he asked. I looked in the mirror and there was no Keren Woodward of Bananarama looking back at me, I was not being tempted to 'Come on Eileen' I was I decided not rocking the dungaree look, I was rocking the I need to act my age look!

But it's okay – it all ended happily because I am not too old for a dungadress – quite why it makes the world of difference from dungarees I don't know, but what I do know is my mum wouldn't have worn one at my age so that means I'm still 25.....



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## Somewhere in Semington?

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Whilst Mr W is out and about in the village he comes across many weird and wonderful sights – so where in our village do you think this is? Send your answers into the Editor [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com) or even better send your answer in with a selfie at the actual spot and we'll publish the best.



## Book Club

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*Angela Grodzicka – 870756*

Eleven members of the club met on 4<sup>th</sup> April to discuss *Passenger 13* by Scott Mariani. Jill, who had suggested the book, gave us some information on the Scottish author and other books he had written.

His hero, Ben Hope, has been described as James Bond meets Jason Bourne with a historical twist. It is quite a short novel and the group thought the plot was a bit thin and formulaic with a rather far fetched conclusion. It was seen as a taster for what he could write and the group agreed it would make a good, action packed, film. The next meeting has been agreed for **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** at 8.00pm in the pub to discuss *The Man with No Face* by Peter May.

All welcome.

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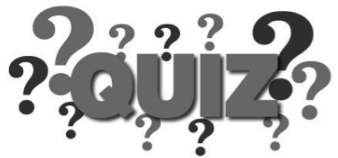
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Six teams assembled for April's Quiz, which was set by Sue and Steve Connor. It was an excellent quiz, so many thanks to them.

The Marathon Round was to work out a bunch of acronyms, for example, 52 W in a Y; 2,4,6,8, WDW or 1,2,3,4,5 OICAF. The winning team was Now We Are Five. That same team went on to win the main quiz by a country mile, beating second placed team Terry's Turnips by 6½ points, so very well done to Angela, Bill, Gaye, Vic and Helen. They even got full marks on the Pot Luck Round. They have become the team to beat, so do come and have a go, if you think you're clever enough, as the say on The Chase.

Do you know when the school leaving age was raised to 14? Or where Freddie Mercury was born? Or which judge has just left Strictly Come Dancing? Answers below.

The next Village Quiz will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. If you come alone, we can easily put you in a team, so please don't be put off!

So another great quiz down at the Somerset Arms too. With Easter as the theme the nine teams waited with baited breath.

The second round was about eggs, it's amazing how much we don't know about eggs. Who would have known that 'Loveable Egg' translates to tamagotchi. Round 3 was called 'Is it Easter here?' where the teams had to guess if somewhere was east or west of the Somerset Arms, for example is the village hall east or west of the pub? Round 5 was the Long Good Friday where every answer contained either Long, Good, or Friday.

The results for the night saw The After Dinners losing by just 2 points to the ever-unpopular Orchard Pigs – who much to the delight of the crowd won the crisps.

Next quiz at the Pub is Bank Holiday **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00pm**.

**Village Quiz Answers:**

**52 Weeks in a Year; 2,4,6,8, Who Do We Appreciate; 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught A Fish Alive; 1918; Zanzibar; Darcey Bussell.**

## At The School Gates

*Pip Hunt Head of School*

### **Lights, Camera, Action!**

Last Friday, we had some very exciting visitors come to St George's – Caron and Jamie from ITV West Country News. They had seen the exciting newspaper article in The Wiltshire Times about the great progress that our school is making and they wanted to come and film all of the changes that are making a difference.

They spent time in Ducklings Class and watched Phonics and saw the great opening of the new 'Mud Kitchen' that Grandad Ken has made for us. They interviewed Mrs Lane, Mrs Cann and Mrs Hunt to find out about how the school has changed.

In addition to this, they also took part in a Kingfisher maths lesson all about sequences and algebraic equations and saw the challenges of teaching Maths in a class with more than one year group. Some of Year 6 were interviewed about how the school has changed over the last two years and how they felt about those improvements. Their morning ended with us filming all the children enjoying a fabulous playtime in the sun using all of our new outdoors equipment.

Before they left, Jamie paid the school a huge compliment by saying that as a cameraman, he gets to visit lots of primary schools, but he said that St George's was special and that we should be very proud of our little school.

## Crafternoons

*Barbara – 07432 724177*



Currently we're mainly focusing on knitting and tapestry but all crafts are welcome! Our next meeting is **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**. Everyone is welcome please call Barbara for more details.

## Nature's Notes

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In this poem **John Clare** writes about the **Clock-O'-Clay**. We are all familiar with clock-o'-clays from our gardens and even houses. There are even nursery rhymes about them, but we can be forgiven for not understanding Clare's Northamptonshire dialect. See how far you have to read into the poem before you recognise what it is.....

In the cowslip pips I lie,  
Hidden from the buzzing fly,  
While green grass beneath me lies,  
Pearled with dew like fishes' eyes,  
Here I lie, a clock-o'-clay,  
Waiting for the time o' day.

While the forest quakes surprise,  
And the wild wind sobs and sighs,  
My home rocks as like to fall,  
On its pillar green and tall;  
When the pattering rain drives by  
Clock-o'-clay keeps warm and dry.

Day by day and night by night,  
All the week I hide from sight;  
In the cowslip pips I lie,  
In the rain still warm and dry;  
Day and night and night and day,  
Red, black-spotted clock-o'-clay.

My home shakes in wind and showers,  
Pale green pillar topped with flowers,  
Bending at the wild wind's breath,  
Till I touch the grass beneath;  
Here I live, lone clock-o'-clay,  
Watching for the time of day.

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## Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show 2019

*Eric J Gay – 01225 754374*



The Midsummer Vintage Show will once again be staged at Semington over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June. We would welcome any local groups from the village or beyond to come and join us over the weekend. You do not have to have a vintage exhibit, any one involved in crafts is welcome and can be accommodated in our crafts marquee, including groups that may wish to promote themselves. Do you make models of any sort? If so why not come along and we will find you a space, we'd also love to see spinners and weavers too.

The show is now in its eleventh year at Semington and our principal aim is to raise funds for children with life-limiting illnesses cared for at The Children's Hospice South West. We also help the Air Ambulance and various Alzheimers Groups across the county.

This year we will again be having our famous sweet give away – so why not bring the children along, so that they can get free sweets and as it is again Fathers' Day weekend so all dads are welcome. You never know you may walk away with a fathers' day prize.

Over the years the members and exhibitors have given their support to many local businesses, from local guest houses and hotels through to the company trading in batteries on the industrial estate, and many more besides.

The show this year will have new and not seen before exhibits including one that originally came from Germany. Our working section will have a flint napper at work along with pole lathes, hurdle making, a blacksmith and other old trades, Living history groups will also be taking part, you can come and hold a bird of prey. Check out our Facebook page: Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show.

So why not come along over the weekend and a great day out with us at the Wessex Midsummer Vintage Show.

## Parish Council Minutes

*Abridged minutes from meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019*

**Present:** Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), P Bowyer, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, P Smith and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There was one member of the public present initially.

**Apologies:** Apologies for non-attendance were received from PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

**Community Policing.** PCSO Ledbury of the Community Policing Team had sent the Clerk the March monthly report that he had subsequently sent to all councillors. In Semington crimes for the month of March included damage to property, violence against a person, assault and attempt to assault and a vehicle theft. Cllr. Rimmer expressed his concerns that the number of reported incidents had significantly increased since the previous month and questioned if there was any action that the Council could take to ameliorate the situation. Cllr. Scott stated that he was particularly alarmed at the increase in 'violent' offences, such as 'assault' and 'violence against the person'. At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr. Seed commented that in his view the current situation was exacerbated by the failure of the Community Policing Model currently operated by Wiltshire Police and that there was very little visibility of the Community Police Team within the community it claims to serve. The Clerk confirmed that the lack of visibility of the Community Policing Team was a recurring theme at many other Parish Council meetings. Cllr. Seed stated that he was a member of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel and suggested that the Clerk writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing these concerns, especially those relating to Semington, copy to him, and he would ensure that it is brought to the attention of the relevant authorities. Cllr. Bowyer stated that he has still to establish which Neighbourhood Watch signs required replacing.

**Wiltshire Council Report.** Cllr. Seed gave a brief report: The Roundabout (A361/High Street) – a new contract for the sponsorship of this roundabout is under discussion. Cllr. Scott stated that whilst he was in favour of this roundabout being 'tidied up' it was essential to maintain the trees and accompanying undergrowth occupying the centre of the roundabout. It was agreed that Cllr. Seed and Cllr. Robinson are to ensure that these key elements of the roundabout are retained. Bus Gate Camera – Wiltshire Council has confirmed that a camera is to be sited at the Canal Bridge to assist in the enforcement of the 'No Entry' Gate. Bridleway 30 – This bridleway is to be closed at the Semington Brook bridge for six months. Local Government Boundary Review – The recommendations from Wiltshire Council are that a new Electoral Division comprising Steeple Ashton, Great Hinton, Keevil, Semington, Berryfields and Broughton Gifford is formed and is to be known as 'Melksham Rural West'. He confirmed that Semington would remain in the Melksham Community Area. Turnpike Close (Planning application 19/02290/VAR) – Cllr. Seed supported the Parish Council's view that these properties should remain 'affordable properties' with occupancy

nominations from individuals with a local connection – as per the original Jephson agreement and confirmatory letter from Wiltshire Council at the time when the original planning permission was granted. He invited the Parish Council to consider whether or not to request him to ‘call-in’ this application if it were likely to be approved by officers under their delegated powers.

**Planning. 1-12 Turnpike Close** Variation of Condition 08 of 07/02532/OUT to alter restrictions for the use of the building as solely for affordable housing. The Parish Council objects to this proposed development. The original Planning permission was granted on the basis that this was to be ‘affordable’ housing with occupancy restricted to those individuals with a demonstrable local connection. The Parish Council strongly objects to any proposed change to this arrangement that may result from this proposed change to Condition 08 of Planning application 07/02532/OUT. These properties must remain ‘affordable housing’ with the previously agreed nomination arrangements. The Parish Council **resolved** to request Cllr. Seed to ‘call-in’ this application if it were likely to be approved by officers under their delegated powers.

**Finance. Parish Council balance in hand at 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 £22,749.09**

**Highways/Environment.** Cllr. Rimmer reported that brambles had been dumped amongst the trees at Littlemarsh. Cllr. Robinson reported that five wooden pallets had been discarded near the path between The Turnpike and High Street – possibly originating from a Company that no longer occupies the site.

The Council **resolved** that an Information Board explaining the commemorative tree planting is to be installed in the Telephone Kiosk. Cllr. Rimmer agreed to provide possible wording and a photograph for this Information Board that he said he would send to all councillors for approval beforehand. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllrs Smith and Robinson for their work in establishing the Telephone Kiosk as a key feature in the village. Cllr. Rimmer stated that the Bench that is to be placed near to the commemorative trees had been ordered and that delivery was expected within a week or so. He added that the provision of an associated plaque was in hand.

**Local Government Boundary Consultation:** The Parish Council **resolved** that the importance of Semington remaining within this Community Area should be communicated to Wiltshire Council and to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

**Next Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Annual Parish Meeting, Annual PC Meeting and Ordinary PC Meeting.**

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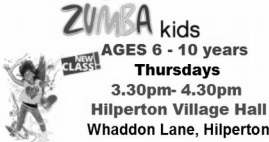
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## Your Wiltshire Councillor News

*Jonathon Seed 07770 774463*

What wonderful news that Salisbury has been voted the best place to live in the Country by Sunday Times readers. The City has had such a difficult year but Councillor Pauline Church and her Wiltshire Council Recovery Team have done an excellent (and award winning) job of getting the City back on its feet. This is being helped by ambitious plans from Wiltshire Council for development in the City as well as attracting national events to Salisbury.

The Council have produced a draft masterplan for the redevelopment of The Maltings and central car park. It is also great to hear that businesses and organisations have shown their support for our Armed Forces by becoming sponsors and partners of this summer's Armed Forces Day National Event being held in Salisbury. The city is hosting the national event that honours and celebrates the Armed Forces, and veterans, and says thank you for all they do to protect us and keep our country safe. Armed Forces Day is traditionally marked across the UK on the last Saturday in June, this year it is 29<sup>th</sup> June. This year the event is being extended to three days from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June at Hudson's Field with a military parade in the city centre on the Saturday morning. Veterans and residents are urged to come and support our Armed Forces over the three day period of celebration in Salisbury.

In other areas of the county there is also positive news and helpful intervention from Wiltshire Council. The future of the North Wilts Rivers Route, a predominantly traffic-free cycling, walking and running path that links Chippenham to Calne, looks assured after Wiltshire Council reached agreement with the multiple landowners who own sections of the route, to renew leases for the next five years. This is really good news for locals who value the route. In Devizes the long running saga of the future of the market place has finally been resolved to the satisfaction of all those involved. Initially there were plans to use the Market Place solely as a community space however following constructive feedback from businesses and residents a new agreement has been reached. So Devizes Market Place will have a dual role as a car park and community space following an agreement by council leaders from Town and County Halls.

All the above are examples of our communities and our councillors pulling together to deliver the very best for us all. Often opinions differ but we in Wiltshire have a great reputation for bringing strong opinions together and finding solutions that benefit every one.

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## Ladies' Breakfast

*Julia Wade*

On **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019, starting at 9.00am** (and finishing by 11.00am), there will be a **Ladies' Breakfast at The Civic, Trowbridge**. Our speaker will be **Fiona Castle**. This event is sponsored by Churches Together.

Fiona spoke at one of our breakfasts last year, and she was so good we invited her back. Fiona worked as a dancer and singer, before marrying well-known musician and entertainer, Roy Castle, who sadly died in 1994. Fiona has written a number of books, had a weekly slot on Premier Radio and has run the London Marathon twice. She is now a well-known national speaker and has an OBE for her work with Global Care and other charities.

**Tickets cost £5.00 each.** To book a place at the breakfast please do so on The Civic's website by going to their Events Calendar or visit Trowbridge Tourist Information Office, located at The Civic, Trowbridge. Please print your ticket and bring it with you. Please indicate any special dietary needs once you have booked, by e-mailing [ladiesbreakfasttrowbridge@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesbreakfasttrowbridge@gmail.com) The booking deadline is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**.

Julia Wade - On behalf of the Churches Together Ladies' Breakfast team

## Semington WI Meeting

*Deb Hurn*



Our April meeting was very enjoyable. We were treated to a tasting of local gin by Holly, who has started her own business called Scout & Sage distilling gin at Fairfield Farm. She talked us through the making of the gin, the various spices used, the costs involved and the procedures she's had to go through.

Holly explained how the different tonics complement the various gins available. It was lovely to hear someone give a talk on something that they are obviously very passionate about and to hear someone so full of enthusiasm. The gin itself was lovely and even those amongst us who previously had not liked gin found themselves enjoying it. We wish her (& Margot her gin bar) all the best in her new venture.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when we will be having a talk by a local osteopath.

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## Steeple Ashton Films

*Alison Wilson – 01380 871345*

### **MARY POPPINS RETURNS (U)**

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2019 – 7.30pm**

**(DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM FOR REFRESHMENTS)**

**AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STEEPLE ASHTON**

Boasting a stellar cast of Emily Blunt, Ben Wishaw, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Julie Walters, Angela Lansbury and Dick Van Dyke, the story has moved on 24 years to the 1930s. Michael Banks is living in his childhood home with his three children and his sister, Jane.

One year after the death of Michael's wife, the family receive an unexpected visitor. Mary Poppins, played by Emily Blunt, returns to rescue the family and inspire them with joy and wonder. Most of us will remember the original Mary Poppins with great affection and the fun and happiness she brought to their home was something we all would have wished to experience!! "Mary Poppins returns at just the right time to deliver a practically perfect, spoonful of sugar for all the family to enjoy."

There will be no film showing in May, but hope you will be fascinated to see the new Mary Poppins on **1<sup>st</sup> June**.

Tickets £6.00 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop.

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019** – Steeple Ashton Films will be showing 'Sometimes, Always Never' starring Bill Nighy, Jenny Agutter, Tim McInnerny as well as other well known actors.

## Paws for Thought



God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life.

It's in the Bible Psalm 139 Verses 23 & 24



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## Steam Up!

*Colin Wade - 870137*

The West Wilts Society of Model Engineers has started their season of open days at their club site in The White Horse Country Park in Westbury. The next Open Day is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1.00pm - 4.00pm. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 11.00am – 4.00pm, the Society hosts their Annual Family Day. There will be train rides on the 5” track and the garden railway layout will be running too. They will have a birds of prey display and Frome model shop will have items for sale.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July there will be another Open Day. Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> sees their biggest event, the Wiltshire Model Steam Gala, with extra garden railway layouts, traders, local and heritage railway displays, stationary and traction engines of all sizes and a full sized steam car!

For more information, including start and finish times, see the website [www.wwsme.org.uk](http://www.wwsme.org.uk) or on Facebook: Wiltshire Model Steam Gala. Or call Colin for more information.

## Down The Local

*John, The Landlord, John*

Hooray! The canal is back open and a bright sunny Easter meant busy times for the local pub. We enjoyed a busy night and great tunes from the Fortunate Sons on Easter Sunday in honour of villager Steve James’s 50th. See the quiz page for a round up of another great quiz. The amazing Antigua Joe didn’t disappoint and a big crowd enjoyed his unique blend of Reggae and Ska.

May is shaping up nicely with a whole host of events. **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** is the village football tournament which involves the ‘Pub all Comers’ taking on the might of the both the Saturday and Sunday village teams. Come along and show your support at the Little Marsh stadium, it’s a 3.00pm kick off. Afterwards it’s BBQ and Karaoke at the pub. **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** is more Karaoke and Disco and the 18<sup>th</sup> sees the return of the ever popular Triple JD.

Our annual Cider Festival is planned for for the **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May** and we have a great lineup. We have The Irish Duo Sound Affects back, Ska music from Absolute Beginners and the amazing Peaky Blinders to finish up on the Saturday. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> sees the return of soloist Stuart Saye followed by Indied playing all the classics. Come and support whenever you can. Don’t forget we do breakfast, lunch and dinner every day (except Sundays when we serve food from Noon to 4.00pm).

# SILVER SWAN

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Saturday 18th May 2019  
7:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bradford-On-Avon

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## Catholic News

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*St. John The Baptist Trowbridge & St Bernadette's Westbury (inc villages)*

### **St John the Baptist Trowbridge :**

**Sunday Masses:** Sat: (Vigil) 6pm; Sun: 10.30am & 6.00pm

**Holy Day of Obligation:** See Newsletter

**Weekday Masses:** Mon: 9.00am; Tue: 6.00pm; Wed: 12.00 noon Fri: 6.00pm; Sat: 9.00am

**Rosary:** Weekdays before Mass.

**Confessions:** Sat: 9.30-10.15am; 5.15-5.30pm and on request.

### **St Bernadette's Westbury**

**Sunday Mass** – 9.00am

**Holy Day of Obligation** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Weekday Mass:** Thursday 10.00am

**Confessions:** Thursday 9.15am – 9.30am and on request

**UK MARCH FOR LIFE** - The UK March for Life will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May in London. To join the coach group contact Jessica Almeida 07561315496.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER LADIES BREAKFAST** - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June in the Civic Centre Trowbridge 9.00am -11.00am. Contact Gill Lee 01225 374247.

**RUH Bath:** Anyone who has a friend or relative in hospital, please contact Mandy Baker (a member of the hospital Chaplaincy team) text/phone 07775 895 814 or email: mandybaker@live.co.uk

**THE NEW 300 CLUB 2019** - Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. **Monthly Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10.** For information and application form contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

### **Mass Times At Nearby Catholic Churches**

Immaculate Conception, Devizes (01380 723572) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm

St Anthony Melksham (01225 702128) Mass on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30am

Bradford on Avon (01225 862739) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 10.30am

## Thought From The Rectory

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**John Rees**

A few months ago, Bishop Nicholas agreed that I should take a ten week sabbatical. This began on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, straight after Easter, and will continue until the end of June. It's recommended that clergy take one every 7 years; I've been ordained for 13, so it's overdue!

The word sabbatical is derived from the same root as Sabbath. A sabbatical is an opportunity to set aside time for mental renewal, spiritual refreshment and physical rest, so as to return refreshed in ministry at the end of it. After 13 years I do feel in need of rest, reflection and renewal and my aim is to come back ready to lead the churches of Canalside into the next stage of their journeys and growth. I will be living in the Rectory for some of the next two months, and away in my caravan at other times. Anne will still be around much of the time and involved in the life of the churches.

I will be doing a number of things; going on retreat, engaging in some reading and doing some research visiting other churches as well as some time for personal rest and relaxation. Through study and research, I will be looking at ways of developing our ministry to families in the Benefice. Our popular Messy Churches are held in Semington and Hilperton 4 or 5 times a year. I am going to visit other churches to get some ideas for introducing regular Sunday teatime services in our churches, which will particularly appeal to families.

I am thankful that so many of our congregations contribute so much to the life of our churches and that things will continue while I'm away. Sunday and midweek services and funerals will be covered by ministers from our team and by some visiting clergy. Involvement in our schools will continue with the Open the Book and Collective Worship teams, as will the May Messy Churches in Semington (11<sup>th</sup>) and Hilperton (18<sup>th</sup>).

Please contact Michael Gamble, Benefice Administrator on 07795 400262, or email the appropriate churchwardens in the first instance for any queries during the period of my sabbatical. Contact details can be found on the Benefice website. I look forward to returning at the end of June, ready to reflect with you on what I have learnt so that we can continue to develop the ministry of the Canalside Churches for our village communities and beyond. On the Sunday I return Joy Albone will be ordained in Salisbury Cathedral and will join us as Curate. I'm sure you will join with me in welcoming her.

# St George's Church Semington



## Services May 2019

4th May - 9.30am

Holy Communion

Rev Hugh Hoskins



SATURDAY 11th May

Messy Church

St George's School, 11.00am

(No service at St George's on 12th May)

18th May - 9.30am

Holy Communion

Rev Maureen Allchin

25th May - 9.30am

All Age Worship - Stuart Raymond

Morning Prayer 9.45am

Thursday 2nd, 9th, 23rd

Thursday 30th May  
Ascension Thursday—7.30pm  
St Michael's Hilperton



## Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes

Administrator – Michael Gamble, please contact Michael for initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings and general matters on **07795 400262**

E-mail - [canalsidebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:canalsidebenefice@gmail.com)

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward **01380 870784**

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

Lay Pastoral Assistants are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on **01225 753118** or John if you would like a visit.

Rev John Rees, Rector, Canalside Benefice **01225 764365**

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